

What is claimed is:

1. A data management apparatus that manages data which is handled by each of a plurality of terminals, comprising:

an obtainment unit operable to obtain terminal characteristic
5 information from said each of the terminals, the terminal characteristic information indicating data processing on said each of the terminals;

a determination unit operable to determine a manner of handling the data based on the terminal characteristic information
10 obtained by the obtainment unit; and

a data processing unit operable to send and receive the data to and from said each of the terminals and process said data, based on the handling manner determined by the determination unit.

15 2. The data management apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the determination unit determines a manner of allocating server resources of the data management apparatus to said each of the terminals, the server resources being used for handling of the data, and

20 the data processing unit allocates the server resources to said each of the terminals based on the allocation manner determined by the determination unit.

25 3. The data management apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the determination unit specifies a priority order for said each of the terminals, and determines the allocation manner depending on the priority order.

30 4. The data management apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising an event judgment unit operable to judge whether a predetermined event has occurred or not, wherein the obtainment unit obtains message registration

information from said each of the terminals, the message registration information indicating a message associated with the event, and

the data processing unit conveys the message associated with
5 the event to said each of the terminals based on the message registration information obtained by the obtainment unit, when the event judgment unit judges that the predetermined event has occurred.

10 5. The data management apparatus according to Claim 4,
wherein the event judgment unit judges whether a change in an electric power environment of the data management apparatus has occurred or not, and

the data processing unit conveys a message notifying of said
15 change.

6. The data management apparatus according to Claim 4,
wherein the event judgment unit judges whether a change of a storage medium in the data management apparatus has occurred
20 or not, and

the data processing unit conveys a message notifying of said change.

7. The data management apparatus according to Claim 4,
25 wherein the event judgment unit judges whether a change has occurred or not in a status of a transmission channel between the data management apparatus and said each of the terminals, and

the data processing unit conveys a message notifying of said change.

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8. The data management apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising a management unit operable to specify an

attribute regarding creation of the data based on said data sent from said each of the terminals to the data processing unit, and manage the data based on the specified attribute.

- 5 9. The data management apparatus according to Claim 8,
 wherein the management unit specifies a data format of the
data based on said data sent from said each of the terminals to the
data processing unit, and manages the data based on the specified
data format.

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10. The data management apparatus according to Claim 8,
 wherein the management unit specifies a creation date and
time of the data based on said data sent from said each of the
terminals to the data processing unit, and manages the data based
15 on the specified creation date and time.

11. The data management apparatus according to Claim 8,
 wherein the management unit specifies a data format and a
creation date and time of the data based on said data sent from said
20 each of the terminals to the data processing unit, and manages the
data based on the specified data format and creation date and time.

12. The data management apparatus according to Claim 2,
 further comprising a management unit operable to obtain attribute
25 information from said each of the terminals, the attribute
information indicating an attribute regarding storage of data stored
in said each of the terminals, and manage the data stored in said
each of the terminals based on the attribute information.

- 30 13. The data management apparatus according to Claim 12,
 wherein the management unit obtains the attribute
information indicating path name information for identifying a

storage location of the data stored in said each of the terminals, and manages the data stored in said each of the terminals based on the path name information.

5 14. The data management apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising:

a date and time storage unit operable to specify a creation date and time of the data based on said data sent from said each of the terminals to the data processing unit, and stores the creation
10 date and time; and

a synchronization unit operable to output the data sent from said each of the terminals to the data processing unit in synchronization with each other, based on the creation date and time stored in the date and time storage unit.

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15. The data management apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the obtainment unit obtains the terminal characteristic information indicating a creation date and time of the data sent from said each of the terminals to the data processing
20 unit,

the determination unit determines output order of the data sent from said each of the terminals to the data processing unit, based on the creation date and time indicated in the terminal characteristic information, and

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the data processing unit outputs the data in synchronization with each other, based on the determined output order.

16. The data management apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein the data processing unit outputs the data for display
30 on a screen.

17. A data management apparatus that manages data which is

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handled by each of a plurality of terminals, comprising:

a storage unit operable to store allocation pattern information indicating a pattern of allocating server resources of the data management apparatus to said each of the terminals;

5 a sending unit operable to send the allocation pattern information stored in the storage unit to said each of the terminals;

an obtainment unit operable to obtain instruction information from said each of the terminals, the instruction information designating a predetermined pattern based on the allocation pattern
10 information; and

a data processing unit operable to allocate the server resources based on the pattern designated in the instruction information obtained by the obtainment unit, send and receive the data to and from said each of the terminals, and process said data.

15 18. The data management apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the allocation pattern information indicates a plurality of patterns, and

the obtainment unit obtains the instruction information
20 selecting and designating any of the plurality of patterns indicated in said allocation pattern information.

19. The data management apparatus according to Claim 18, further comprising a user interface unit operable to display the
25 plurality of patterns indicated in the allocation pattern information stored in the storage unit, and specify a predetermined pattern according to an operation by a user,

wherein the data processing unit sends and receives the data to and from said each of the terminals and processes said data,
30 based on the predetermined pattern specified by the user interface unit.

20. The data management apparatus according to Claim 19,
wherein the user interface unit selects and specifies a pattern
according to an operation by the user from among the displayed
patterns.

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21. The data management apparatus according to Claim 20,
wherein the user interface unit selects the pattern according
to the operation by the user from among the displayed patterns, and
further specifies a changed version of the selected pattern according
to another operation by the user.

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22. The data management apparatus according to Claim 21,
wherein the user interface unit updates the allocation pattern
information stored in the storage unit based on the changed version
of the pattern.

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23. The data management apparatus according to Claim 17,
wherein the obtainment unit obtains the instruction
information designating a changed version of the pattern indicated
in the allocation pattern information.

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24. The data management apparatus according to Claim 17,
wherein upon request from said each of the terminals, the
sending unit reads out from the storage unit the allocation pattern
information indicating the allocation pattern for said each of the
terminals, and sends said allocation pattern information to said each
of the terminals.

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25. The data management apparatus according to Claim 24,
wherein the pattern indicated in the allocation pattern
information includes identification information and server resources,
the identification information being assigned for identifying said

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each of the terminals, and the server resources being allocated to said each of the terminals identified with the identification information, and

5 upon request from said each of the terminals, the sending unit sends the allocation pattern information indicating the pattern including the identification information to said each of the terminals.

26. The data management apparatus according to Claim 17, further comprising a detection and changing unit operable to detect
10 a change in a processing environment of the data and change the pattern designated in the instruction information according to the detection,

wherein the data processing unit allocates the server resources based on the pattern changed by the detection and
15 changing unit.

27. The data management apparatus according to Claim 26,
wherein the detection and changing unit detects a change in the server resources of the data management apparatus as the
20 change in the processing environment.

28. The data management apparatus according to Claim 27,
wherein the detection and changing unit detects a change in an electric power environment of the data management apparatus
25 as the change in the server resources.

29. The data management apparatus according to Claim 26,
wherein the detection and changing unit detects a change in a status of a transmission channel between the data management
30 apparatus and said each of the terminals as the change in the processing environment.

30. A terminal that communicates with a server using server resources of the server, the terminal comprising:

a sending unit operable to send terminal characteristic information to the server, the terminal characteristic information indicating data processing on the terminal; and

a data processing unit operable to send and receive data to and from the server and process said data according to a manner of allocating the server resources to the terminal, the allocation manner being determined by the server based on the terminal characteristic information sent by the sending unit.

31. The terminal according to Claim 30, further comprising:

a pattern obtainment unit operable to obtain allocation pattern information from the server, the allocation pattern information indicating a plurality of patterns of allocating the server resources of the server to the terminal;

a selection unit operable to select any of the plurality of patterns indicated in the allocation pattern information obtained by the pattern obtainment unit; and

an instruction unit operable to send selection instruction information to the server, the selection instruction information instructing the server to allocate the server resources based on the pattern selected by the selection unit.

32. The terminal according to Claim 31, further comprising a changing unit operable to change the pattern selected by the selection unit,

wherein the instruction unit sends change instruction information to the server, the change instruction information instructing the server to allocate the server resources based on the pattern changed by the changing unit.

33. The terminal according to Claim 32, further comprising a user interface unit operable to display the plurality of patterns indicated in the allocation pattern information,

5 wherein the selection unit selects a pattern according to an operation by a user from among the plurality of patterns displayed by the user interface unit, and

the changing unit changes the pattern selected by the selection unit and displayed by the user interface unit, according to another operation by the user.

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34. The terminal according to Claim 30, further comprising:

15 a registration information sending unit operable to send message registration information to the server, the message registration information indicating a message associated with a predetermined event;

a message obtainment unit operable to obtain the message conveyed from the server based on the message registration information; and

20 a display unit operable to display the message obtained by the message obtainment unit.

35. The terminal according to Claim 30, further comprising an attribute information sending unit operable to send attribute information indicating an attribute regarding storage of data stored in the terminal so as to make the server manage the data based on the attribute.

36. The terminal according to Claim 35,
30 wherein the attribute information sending unit sends the attribute information indicating path name information for identifying a storage location of the data stored in the terminal.

37. A data management system comprising:

a plurality of terminals; and

a data management apparatus that manages data which is handled by each of the plurality of terminals,

5 wherein the data management apparatus includes:

an obtainment unit operable to obtain terminal characteristic information from said each of the terminals, the terminal characteristic information indicating data processing on each of the terminals;

10 a determination unit operable to determine a manner of allocating server resources of the data management apparatus to said each of the terminals based on the terminal characteristic information obtained by the obtainment unit; and

15 a data processing unit operable to send and receive the data to and from said each of the terminals and process said data, based on the allocation manner determined by the determination unit, and said each of the terminals includes:

a terminal sending unit operable to send the terminal characteristic information; and

20 a terminal data processing unit operable to send and receive the data to and from said each of the terminals and process said data, based on the allocation manner of the server resources determined by the determination unit.

25 38. A data management method for managing data which is handled by each of a plurality of terminals in a data management system comprising said plurality of terminals and a data management apparatus, the data management method including:

30 a terminal sending step in which said each of the terminals sends terminal characteristic information indicating data processing on said each of the terminals to the data management apparatus;

an obtainment step in which the data management apparatus

obtains the terminal characteristic information from said each of the terminals;

5 a determination step in which the data management apparatus determines a manner of allocating server resources of said data management apparatus to said each of the terminals, based on the terminal characteristic information obtained in the obtainment step; and

10 a data processing step in which the data management apparatus and said each of the terminals send and receive the data between each other and process said data, based on the allocation manner determined in the determination step.

39. A data management method in which a data management apparatus manages data which is handled by each of a plurality of terminals, the data management method comprising:

15 an obtainment step of obtaining terminal characteristic information from said each of the terminals, the terminal characteristic information indicating data processing on said each of the terminals;

20 a determination step of determining a manner of allocating server resources of the data management apparatus to said each of the terminals, based on the terminal characteristic information obtained in the obtainment step; and

25 a data processing step of sending and receiving the data to and from said each of the terminals and processing said data, based on the allocation manner determined in the determination step.

40. A data management method in which a terminal that communicates with a server using server resources of the server makes the server manage data which is handled by the terminal, the data management method comprising:

a sending step of sending terminal characteristic information

indicating data processing on the terminal; and

a data processing step of sending and receiving the data to and from the server and processing said data according to a manner of allocating the server resources to the terminal, the allocation
5 manner being determined by the server based on the terminal characteristic information sent in the sending step.

41. A program executed by a data management apparatus to manage data which is handled by each of a plurality of terminals, the
10 program comprising:

an obtainment step of obtaining terminal characteristic information from said each of the terminals, the terminal characteristic information indicating data processing on said each of the terminals;

15 a determination step of determining a manner of allocating the server resources of the data management apparatus to said each of the terminals, based on the terminal characteristic information obtained in the obtainment step; and

a data processing step of sending and receiving the data to
20 and from said each of the terminals and processing said data, based on the allocation manner determined in the determination step.

42. A program executed by a terminal which communicates with a server using server resources of the server to make the server
25 manage data which is handled by the terminal, the program comprising:

a sending step of sending terminal characteristic information indicating data processing on the terminal; and

a data processing step of sending and receiving the data to
30 and from the server and processing said data according to a manner of allocating the server resources to the terminal, the allocation manner being determined by the server based on the terminal

characteristic information sent in the sending step.

43. A storage medium for storing a program executed by a data management apparatus to manage data which is handled by each of a plurality of terminals,

wherein the program comprises:

an obtainment step of obtaining terminal characteristic information from said each of the terminals, the terminal characteristic information indicating data processing on said each of the terminals;

a determination step of determining a manner of allocating server resources of the data management apparatus to said each of the terminals, based on the terminal characteristic information obtained in the obtainment step; and

a data processing step of sending and receiving the data to and from said each of the terminals and processing said data, based on the allocation manner determined in the determination step.

44. A storage medium for storing a program executed by a terminal which communicates with a server using server resources of the server to make the server manage data which is handled by the terminal,

wherein the program comprises:

a sending step of sending terminal characteristic information indicating data processing on the terminal; and

a data processing step of sending and receiving the data to and from the server and processing said data according to a manner of allocating the server resources to the terminal, the allocation manner being determined by the server based on the terminal characteristic information sent in the sending step.

45. A storage medium for storing management information used

by a data management apparatus to manage data which is handled by each of a plurality of terminals,

5 wherein the management information indicates an attribute regarding creation of the data obtained by the data management apparatus from said each of the terminals, the attribute being specified by the data management apparatus based on said obtained data.

46. The storage medium according to Claim 45,
10 wherein the management information indicates a data format of the data.